

(5,467,388) under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicants respectfully traverse.

B
Claim 1 defines a method for implementing telecommunication services in a telecommunications network, which comprises the steps of:

initiating a telecommunication service due to an event which differs from a connection setting-up request from a subscriber;

generating a virtual telephone number via the telecommunication service after activating the telecommunication service;

signaling the virtual telephone number to a service provider, the service provider in turn indicating an occurrence of the event;

using a switching point to transmit the virtual telephone number from the service provider to initiate the telecommunication service after the occurrence of the event; and

carrying out actions defined for the telecommunication service.

Redd teaches a way of blocking unwanted telephone calls while letting calls from certain subscribers go through. In response to a calling subscriber placing a telephone call to another subscriber, the calling subscriber receives a message informing him/her that the called subscriber is not available and asking that a PIN number be input. This PIN is compared with PINs in a database and if a match is found, a connection is setup, i.e. the call goes through to the called subscriber.

Redd does not teach initiating a telecommunication service due to an event which differs from a connection setting-up request from a subscriber. Redd specifically teaches initiating a telecommunication service due to a connection setting-up request from a subscriber, i.e. when the calling subscriber requests a connection setup to a number associated with a call-blocking service. The connection is then either setup or not setup, depending on the entered PIN.

Further, Redd does not teach generating a virtual telephone number via the telecommunication service after activating the telecommunication service. Redd teaches first generating the virtual telephone number and then activating the telecommunication service. The system number, which can be a virtual telephone number, that is taught by Redd is known to the subscriber in advance, i.e. before the telecommunication

service is activated. The virtual telephone number appearing in claim 1 is unique for every service instance in order to identify the referred event.

A Further, Redd does not teach signaling the virtual telephone number to a service provider; the service provider in turn indicating an occurrence of the event. The only service provider taught by Redd is the telecommunication service provider in which the virtual number is known. There is only intra-system signaling; the virtual telephone number is not signaled to a service provider.

A Further, Redd does not teach using a switching point to transmit the virtual telephone number from the service provider to initiate the telecommunication service after the occurrence of the event. Redd teaches using the virtual telephone number for call blocking service administration, which is well before the occurrence of the event. Redd teaches that the communication itself (on event) is always performed by using the call block service owner's directory number (column 10, lines 30-34).

Claim 11 defines apparatus for carrying out initiation of telecommunication services, comprising:

first memory means for storing a telecommunication service;

second memory means for storing activation information relating to the telecommunication service;

execution means for carrying out the telecommunication service using the activation information and connected to said first memory means and said second memory means;

means for generating a virtual telephone number via the telecommunication service after activating the telecommunication service;

means for signaling the virtual telephone number to a service provider, the service provider in turn indicating an occurrence of an event;

a switching point for transmitting the virtual telephone number from the service provider to initiate the telecommunication service after the occurrence of the event; and

receiving means for receiving external events, in which case, after receiving an event, the telecommunication service is carried out with an aid of the activation information, said receiving means connected to said execution means.

For the reasons specified above with regard to claim 1, Redd does not disclose: means for generating a virtual telephone number via the telecommunication service after activating the telecommunication service; means for signaling the virtual telephone number to a service provider, the service provider in turn indicating an occurrence of an event; or a switching point for transmitting the virtual telephone number from the service provider to initiate the telecommunication service after the occurrence of the event.

Claim 12 defines an apparatus for carrying out initiation of telecommunication services, comprising:

a first memory unit for storing a telecommunication service;

a second memory unit for storing activation information relating to the telecommunication service;

an execution unit for carrying out the telecommunication service using the activation information and connected to said first memory unit and said second memory unit;

a switching point for transmitting a virtual telephone number from a service provider to initiate the telecommunication service after an occurrence of an event; and

a receiving unit for receiving external events, in which case, after receiving the event, the telecommunication service is carried out with an aid of the activation information, said receiving unit connected to said execution unit.

For the reasons specified above with regard to claim 1, Redd does not disclose a switching point for transmitting a virtual telephone number from a service provider to initiate the telecommunication service after an occurrence of an event.

In item 8 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 9 and 10 have been rejected as being obvious over Redd, Jr. et al.

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These claims are not obvious for the reasons specified above with regard to claim 1.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 11, or 12. Claims 1, 11, and 12 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-12 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, he is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark P. Weichselbaum
Reg. No. 43,248



For Applicants

MPW:cgm

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101